

UNITED STATES v. RODNEY PARKER
U.S.D.C. Case No. 08CR0854-LAB-01

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EXHIBIT A



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Survey says ink is in; tattoos reach mainstream

By Andrew Bridges

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A sun shines on Dan Yu's back, alongside a swimming koi fish. A tree soon may grow on his arm.

"Your body's an empty canvas, so you almost want to continue to add to it," said Yu, 28, as he showed off his tattoos.

A generation or two ago, Yu's tattoos — to say nothing of his pierced nose — probably would have placed him in a select company of soldiers, sailors, bikers and carnival workers. But no longer: The American University employee is among about 36 percent of Americans age 18 to 29 with at least one tattoo, according to a survey.

The study, scheduled to appear Monday on the Web site of the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, provides perhaps the most in-depth look at tattoos since their popularity exploded in the early 1990s.

The results suggest that 24 percent of Americans between 18 and 50 are tattooed; that's almost one in four. Two surveys from 2003 suggested just 15 percent to 16 percent of U.S. adults had a tattoo.

"Really, nowadays, the people who don't have them are becoming the unique ones," said Chris Keaton, a tattoo artist and president of the Baltimore Tattoo Museum.

But body art is more than just tattoos.

About one in seven people surveyed reported having a piercing anywhere other than in the soft lobe of the ear, according to the study. That total rises to nearly one in three for the 18-to-29 set. Just about half, 48 percent, in that age category had either a tattoo or piercing.

Given their youth, that suggests the percentage of people with body art will continue to grow, said study co-author Dr. Anne Laumann, a Northwestern University dermatologist.

"They haven't had time to get their body piercing. They haven't had time to get their tattoo. They are just beginning to get into it and the number is already big," Laumann said.

So why has body art become so popular?

Laumann and others believe it allows people to broadcast to the world what they are all about. Others call it sign of rebellion or a rite of passage. The survey found nearly three-fourths of the pierced and nearly two-thirds of the tattooed made the leap before 24.

"It's a very easy way to express something that you think represents part of your identity — that you don't have to tell someone but you can just have seen," said Chelsea Farrell, 21, an American University senior from Albany, N.Y. Farrell has a tattooed fish on each hip and a Celtic knot on the small of her back.

The survey also found that what your mother may have told you about who has tattoos is true: People who drink, do drugs, have been jailed or forgo religion are more likely to be tattooed.

The same holds for piercings, though rates do not appear to vary with education, income or job category. In that sense, they appear to be "different animals," said Laumann, who has traditionally pierced ears.

One obvious difference is that piercings can be easily removed, unlike tattoos.

"I guess I liked the way they looked and the rush of getting them pierced, as well as them not being

permanent. I can take them out and the holes will close up," said Simah Waddell, 21, of Rochester, N.Y., of her pierced nose, tongue, belly button and ears.

Waddell, who is entering her senior year at American University, said she suffered no side effects, other than the anger of her parents. The survey suggests that is not always the case for others with piercings. Nearly one in four reported medical problems, including skin infections. Among those with mouth or tongue piercings, an equal proportion reported chipped or broken teeth.

For tattoos, 13 percent of respondents had problems with healing. Generally, the Food and Drug Administration receives few reports of complications from tattoos.

The industry is regulated by state and local officials, but not the FDA, and there is no agency-approved tattoo pigment or ink. The FDA is considering more involvement, said Dr. Linda Katz, director of agency's Office of Cosmetics and Colors.

"If you look at the fact that a quarter of adults have a tattoo, it's amazing how safe the industry is," said Dr. R. Rox Anderson, a Harvard Medical School dermatologist and tattoo removal expert. None of the survey respondents had ever had a tattoo removed, though 17 percent had considered it.

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2000 Mercury Mountaineer Performance & Efficiency Standard Features

- 3,996 cc 4 liters 6 V engine with 100.3 mm bore, 84.3 mm stroke, 9.7 compression ratio, overhead cam and two valves per cylinder
- Unleaded fuel
- Fuel economy EPA highway (l/100km): 11.2
- Multi-point injection fuel system
- Main 79 liter unleaded fuel tank
- Power: 157 kW , 210 HP @ 5,250 rpm; 240 ft lb , 325 Nm @ 3,250 rpm

2000 Mercury Mountaineer Handling, Ride & Braking Standard Features

- ABS
- 3.55:1 axle ratio
- Four disc brakes including two ventilated discs
- Immobilizer
- Fullsize steel rim under body spare wheel
- Wishbone front suspension with stabilizer bar independent with coil springs , beam rear suspension with stabilizer bar rigid with leaf springs

2000 Mercury Mountaineer Exterior & Aerodynamics Standard Features

- Body side molding
- Front and rear toned bumpers
- Driver and passenger power black door mirrors
- External dimensions: overall length (mm): 4,844, overall width (mm): 1,783, overall height (mm): 1,786, ground clearance (mm): 170, wheelbase (mm): 2,835, front track (mm): 1,486, rear track (mm): 1,486 and curb to curb turning circle (mm): 11,369
- Front fog lights
- Complex surface lens halogen bulb headlights
- Heat reflective glass
- Gloss two-tone paint , black two-tone paint , metallic two-tone paint
- Swing-out rear window
- Roof rails
- Rear step
- Tinted glass on cabin , privacy tinted glass on rear , privacy tinted glass on side
- Underbody protection for transfer case
- Weights: gross vehicle weight rating (kg) 2,531, curb weight (kg) 1,891, gross trailer weight braked (kg) 2,132 and max legal load (kg) 515
- Windshield wipers with automatic intermittent wipe

2000 Mercury Mountaineer Interior Standard Features

- Air conditioning
- Fixed mast antenna
- Front ashtray
- Manufacturer's own audio system
- Automatic drive indicator on dashboard
- Cargo capacity: rear seat down (liters): 2,240 and all seats in place (liters): 1,172
- Front seats cigar lighter
- Clock
- Floor partial console with open storage box
- Courtesy lights
- Cruise control
- Front seats and rear seats cup holders
- Door ajar warning
- Door pockets/bins for driver seat and passenger seat
- Driver and passenger front airbag
- Bucket seat
- 3-point reel height adjustable front seat belts on driver seat and passenger seat
- Front seat center armrest
- Glove compartment
- Two head restraints on front seats , height adjustable two head restraints on rear seats
- Illuminated entry system
- Internal dimensions: front headroom (mm): 1,013, rear headroom (mm): 998, front hip room (mm): 1,328, rear hip room (mm): 1,311, front leg room (mm): 1,077, rear leg room (mm): 909, front shoulder room (mm): 1,427 and rear shoulder room (mm): 1,438
- Internal button power locks
- Power steering
- Front power windows with one one-touch , rear power windows
- Front reading lights
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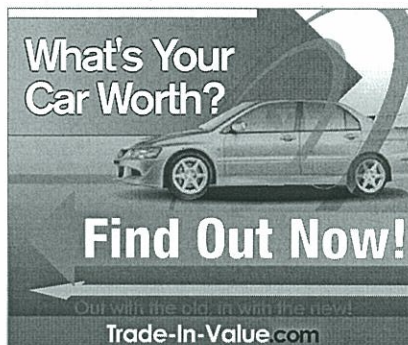
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EXHIBIT C







